splashed liquid adhering to surfaces of the strip is described in DE 195 35 168 A1. The partition, comprised of a fixedly installed part and a movable part arranged at the strip side (for making possible a problem-free exchange of the rolls), extends above the strip delivery area up to the stand platform and below the strip delivery area down to the base plate. On the movable part of the partition the following device parts are arranged:

- a roll barrel blowing device for removing squeezed-off rolling medium from the finish-rolled strip;

- a roll barrel gap seal for sealing the roll space located above the strip relative to the strip;

- a strip edge blowing device for generating an air flow at a right angle to the strip in the roll gap at the delivery side above the running strip by which the entrained rolling oil is deflected away from the strip laterally of the strip edge;

- a vapor suction device configured to generate a parallel air flow counter to the strip running direction above and below the strip.

Based on this known prior art, wherein in many cases the strip is subjected to a vacuum action or an air flow is directed against the working roll, the object of the invention is to configure a simple method and a device, based on this method and comprised of simple components which are suitable for rolling mills, for a contactless sealing of a gap between a partition and a strip at the delivery area of cold-rolling and strip rolling devices such that, with an acceptable energy expenditure and a minimal noise development, a

dry strip surface as well as a complete separation of the damp-wet roll area from the finish-rolled strip are achieved by developing the known devices further.

The object is solved according to the invention in regard to a method of the kind mentioned in the preamble of claim 1 with the characterizing features of claim 1 and in regard to the device with the characterizing features of claim 3.

By means of the measure of the invention of sealing the gap between the partition and the strip above and below the strip by an air cushion-like compressed gas buffer, wherein the compressed gas above and below the strip is removed additionally in the form of a split flow parallel to the strip surface in the direction toward the rolling mill and in the opposite direction, even at high strip speeds of more than 1,000 m per minute, independent of the strip width, a penetration of rolling oil or emulsion is prevented successfully and a contactless strip drying is achieved.

By means of the generated split flow extending parallel to the strip surface, it is furthermore safely prevented that rolling oil or emulsion can penetrate laterally past the strip. Also, liquid that is running downwardly on the upper partition is returned in a directed manner to the rolling mill by this split flow.

The pressure with which the gas is guided at a right angle from above and below against the strip surface is approximately 1 to 10 bar, preferably approximately 5 bar, which ensures that the generation of an air cushion-like compressed gas buffer required for an optimal sealing action is realized and that the subsequent

split flow is energy-rich enough in order to prevent penetration of moisture. In order to make this possible with an energy amount and noise development as minimal as possible, the gap between the partition and the strip is, if possible, adjusted to 0.1 to 1 mm, preferably to 0.2 mm, the strip thickness being added to this, in order to achieve the desired effect for a predetermined gas pressure with gas quantities as minimal as possible.

A device for performing this method is comprised of a partition arranged above and below the strip whose stationarily installed parts are positioned above the strip so as to extend up to the stand platform and below the strip down to the base plate. In the direction facing the strip, these fixedly installed partition components are extended by movable (slidable) partition components so far that between these movable partition components and the strip surface a narrow gap is adjusted. This gap can be adjusted by moving the movable partition components against a stationary or adjustable stop to realize a predetermined gap width, or it is adjusted automatically as a result of the compressed gas buffer. According to a preferred embodiment of the invention, the gap is, independent of the strip thickness, 0.1 to 1 mm, preferably 0.2 mm.

The end of the movable partition facing the strip is formed by a blast nozzle bar, respectively, in which bores (blast nozzles) are arranged through which a gas is guided under pressure against the strip surface. According to another advantageous embodiment of the invention, approximately 250 blast nozzles, per meter of bar length, with a diameter of approximately 1 mm are arranged in the blast nozzle bar. Advantageously, the blast nozzles are arranged successively transverse across the entire strip width centrally